

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

The airwaves they are making money off of belong to the people of this country, not to a few large companies. It is your job to protect our rights and to make sure large companies like Sinclair and ClearChannel are not exploiting the trust of the American people. Radio and television should be people-powered, not money-driven. Part of open democracy and representative government is the right to make informed decisions based on unbiased information from disinterested parties. I am personally tired of hearing basically the same tailor-made message on every television and radio news outlet. How about making the system work the way it should? Don't the big companies have enough money by this point to step back and give the rest of us a voice? I appreciate your time Thank you.
Dr. Rachel Shuttlesworth